

**Introduced by Senator Blakeslee**

February 24, 2012

---

An act to amend Section 10248 of, and to add Section 9027.5 to, the Government Code, relating to the Legislature.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SB 1428, as introduced, Blakeslee. Legislative meetings: recording and transcription.

Existing law requires, except as specified, all meetings of a house of the Legislature or a committee thereof to be open and public. Existing law, the Legislative Open Records Act, provides that legislative records are open to inspection and any person has a right to inspect any legislative record, except as specified. Existing law requires the Legislative Counsel to make certain information available to the public in electronic form regarding each bill in each current legislative session, including, among other things, the bill history and status, all bill analyses prepared by legislative committees, and all vote information.

This bill would require each house of the Legislature to make an audio, or audio and video, recording of every open and public meeting of a house of the Legislature or a committee thereof, and would require those recordings to be transcribed. The bill would specify that the transcriptions shall be legislative records for purposes of the Legislative Open Records Act and require that the Legislative Counsel make the transcriptions available to the public in electronic form. The bill would require each house of the Legislature to make the transcriptions in a manner that utilizes the best available technology in audio transcription software in order to minimize costs.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. Section 9027.5 is added to the Government Code,  
2 to read:

3     9027.5. (a) Each house of the Legislature shall make an audio,  
4 or audio and video, recording of every meeting of that house or a  
5 committee thereof that is required by this article to be open and  
6 public.

7     (b) Each house of the Legislature shall cause every recording  
8 made pursuant to subdivision (a) to be transcribed.

9     (c) A transcription made pursuant to subdivision (b) is a  
10 legislative record for purposes of the Legislative Open Records  
11 Act (Article 3.5 (commencing with Section 9070)).

12     (d) Each house of the Legislature shall implement subdivision  
13 (a) in a manner that utilizes the best available technology in audio  
14 transcription software in order to minimize costs.

15     SEC. 2. Section 10248 of the Government Code is amended  
16 to read:

17     10248. (a) The Legislative Counsel shall, with the advice of  
18 the Assembly Committee on Rules and the Senate Committee on  
19 Rules, make all of the following information available to the public  
20 in electronic form:

21     (1) The legislative calendar, the schedule of legislative  
22 committee hearings, a list of matters pending on the floors of both  
23 houses of the Legislature, and a list of the committees of the  
24 Legislature and their members.

25     (2) The text of each bill introduced in each current legislative  
26 session, including each amended, enrolled, and chaptered form of  
27 each bill.

28     (3) The bill history of each bill introduced and amended in each  
29 current legislative session.

30     (4) The bill status of each bill introduced and amended in each  
31 current legislative session.

32     (5) All bill analyses prepared by legislative committees in  
33 connection with each bill in each current legislative session.

34     (6) All vote information concerning each bill in each current  
35 legislative session.

36     (7) Any veto message concerning a bill in each current  
37 legislative session.

38     (8) The California Codes.

1 (9) The California Constitution.

2 (10) All statutes enacted on or after January 1, 1993.

3 (11) *Each transcription made pursuant to subdivision (b) of*  
4 *Section 9027.5.*

5 (b) The information identified in subdivision (a) shall be made  
6 available to the public by means of access by way of the largest  
7 nonproprietary, nonprofit cooperative public computer network.  
8 The information shall be made available in one or more formats  
9 and by one or more means in order to provide the greatest feasible  
10 access to the general public in this state. Any person who accesses  
11 the information may access all or any part of the information. The  
12 information may also be made available by any other means of  
13 access that would facilitate public access to the information. The  
14 information that is maintained in the legislative information system  
15 that is operated and maintained by the Legislative Counsel shall  
16 be made available in the shortest feasible time after the information  
17 is available in the information system. The information that is not  
18 maintained in the information system shall be made available in  
19 the shortest feasible time after it is available to the Legislative  
20 Counsel.

21 (c) Any documentation that describes the electronic digital  
22 formats of the information identified in subdivision (a) and is  
23 available to the public shall be made available by means of access  
24 by way of the computer network specified in subdivision (b).

25 (d) Personal information concerning a person who accesses the  
26 information may be maintained only for the purpose of providing  
27 service to the person.

28 (e) No fee or other charge may be imposed by the Legislative  
29 Counsel as a condition of accessing the information that is  
30 accessible by way of the computer network specified in subdivision  
31 (b).

32 (f) The electronic public access provided by way of the computer  
33 network specified in subdivision (b) shall be in addition to other  
34 electronic or print distribution of the information.

35 (g) No action taken pursuant to this section shall be deemed to  
36 alter or relinquish any copyright or other proprietary interest or  
37 entitlement of the State of California relating to any of the  
38 information made available pursuant to this section.

O